

Alamo Heights News

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS

6116 BROADWAY

78209

Volume 2, Issue 9

September 2008

CPS Energy Provides Transformer Information

At the request of the City of Alamo Heights, CPS Energy provided information concerning electric transformers at the City Council meeting on August 25, 2008. Concerns regarding electric transformers had been raised by a resident who experienced a leaking transformer in front of her house.

Representatives from CPS Energy Environmental Management and Distribution Engineering departments explained that the substance within the resident's leaking transformer was mineral oil, which provides for insulation and cooling of the equipment. There were no PCBs present in the resident's transformer. Prior to the 1980s, transformer oil could contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Since then, CPS Energy has removed and replaced all transformers that were known to contain PCBs greater than 500 ppm. CPS Energy's PCB management program is in compliance with all environmental regulations.

The vast majority of CPS Energy transformers do not contain PCBs, although some mineral oil transformers may contain small amounts of PCBs. If transformers are found to contain any amount of PCBs, they are permanently removed from service and are disposed of in compliance with all environmental regulations. CPS Energy staff also explained that they replace transformers when they fail while in service and as part

of: 1) routine visual circuit patrol that identify units that are leaking, severely rusted, or showing any other physical signs of needing replacement; 2) ongoing system upgrade projects if they meet the criteria listed in 1); and 3) pole inspection program which includes a visual inspection of all other equipment on the pole.

In addition to its current inspection and replacement programs, CPS Energy has agreed to perform a visual inspection of all overhead transformers within the City of Alamo Heights. All units that are considered to be at risk of containing PCBs will be identified and their nameplate information will be digitally photographed. This nameplate information, which typically includes manufacturer name, date manufactured, serial number, etc., will be used to cross reference available manufacturers' PCB transformer information to further screen transformers for testing. All units that were manufactured before each respective manufacturer ceased using PCBs in their transformers will be selected for testing.

The additional visual inspection program will begin the week of September 8, 2008. Test results are expected within 2-3 months and this information will be provided to the City of Alamo Heights.

Citizens' Emergency Services Academy Begins

As a reminder, the Emergency Services Citizens' Academy class begins Sept. 18 and continues through Nov. 13, meeting each Thursday from 6-8 p.m. The Emergency Services Citizens' Academy welcomes residents, business owners and their employees, as well as members of civic organizations who want to learn more about the Police and Fire/EMS departments operations.

For more information or to enroll in the academy, please call Officer J.W. Petrash in the Community Resource Office at 210-832-2201 or send an e-mail to jpetrash@alamoheightstx.gov. Include the names of all persons interested in attending, a business name if applicable, address and telephone number.

Calendar

September

22	City Council Meeting	5:30 p.m.
27	3rd Annual Pet Fair	9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

October

1	Board of Adjustment Meeting	5:30 p.m.
6	Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting	5:30 p.m.
13	City Council Meeting	5:30 p.m.
21	Architectural Review Board	5:30 p.m.
27	City Council Meeting	4:30 p.m.

911 for EMERGENCY**Fire/EMS (Non Emergency): 824-1281****Police (Non-Emergency): 822-3321****Police Administration Office: 822-6433****Police Investigations: 822-2164****CITY HALL****Administration: 822-3331****Taxes: 882-1502****Water: 882-1507****Court Clerk: 882-1501****Public Works: 882-1518****Community Development 826-0516****Mayor & Councilmembers****Louis Cooper-MAYOR****882-1511****lcooper@alamoheightstx.gov****Jill Souter-PLACE 3 - MAYOR PRO TEM****882-1514****jsouter@alamoheightstx.gov****Stan McCormick-PLACE 1****882-1512****smccormick@alamoheightstx.gov****Bobby Rosenthal-PLACE 2****882-1513****broenthal@alamoheightstx.gov****Bill Kiel-PLACE 4****882-1515****bkiel@alamoheightstx.gov****Susan Harwell-PLACE 5****882-1516****sharwell@alamoheightstx.gov****City Officials****Rebecca Waldman-CITY MANAGER****882-1500****rwaldman@alamoheightstx.gov****Shawn Eddy-PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR****882-1506****seddy@alamoheightstx.gov****Ann McGlone - COMMUNITY****DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR****832-2244****amcglone@alamoheightstx.gov****Rick Pruitt-POLICE CHIEF****832-2200****rpruitt@alamoheightstx.gov****Bill Hagendorf- FIRE CHIEF****832-2205****bhagendorf@alamoheightstx.gov****Cynthia Barr-DIRECTOR OF FINANCE****882-1502****cbarr@alamoheightstx.gov****Marian Ramirez-ASSISTANT TO CITY
MANAGER/INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
MANAGER****882-1508****mramirez@alamoheightstx.gov****Denise Silva - CITY SECRETARY****832-2209****dsilva@alamoheightstx.gov****Judie Surratt-HUMAN RESOURCE
MANAGER/DEPUTY CITY SECRETARY**
882-1503**CITY BRIEFS****National Night Out - October 7th**

National Night Out, normally scheduled in August, has been changed to Oct. 7 for Texas residents, to take advantage of cooler weather. Citizens are encouraged to spend the evening with their friends and neighbors to create local awareness and heighten participation in efforts to combat crime and drug abuse.

Participation is simple: Between 7 – 10 p.m., organize a block party or cookout; turn on outside lights; organize a bicycle ride through the neighborhoods or even a neighborhood walk—any activity you can think of to promote neighborhood camaraderie.

The Alamo Heights Fire and Police departments would appreciate the opportunity to celebrate the National Night Out event with you. Firefighters and police officers will come to your event and share information on fire and crime prevention. Police bicycle officers will be available to participate in organized neighborhood bicycle rides or walks. Officers and firefighters view the activities as great opportunities to meet residents and to share information.

If you are planning a National Night Out event of any type or size, please notify Community Resource Officer J.W. Petrash of the location, times and type of event. He can be reached at 210-832-2201 or by email at jpetrash@alamoheightstx.gov.

High School's Howdy Night

The Alamo Heights High School has scheduled its 2008 Howdy Night for Sept. 24, beginning with a parade at 4 p.m. The parade of students and supporters will stage on Townsend Avenue and continue north on Broadway to East Castano.

The public is invited to participate in the Howdy Night event on the campus of Alamo Heights High School. All proceeds will benefit student clubs and organizations.

New 4-Way Stop Created

The Police Department continues to study traffic patterns and driver behavior in neighborhood areas surrounding schools.

To address one concern, the Police Department recommended and City Council approved placing stop signs on Ogden Lane at Acacia Street/Imlay Street, thereby creating a four-way stop intersection. This new four-way stop intersection should help maintain a safe area for children attending a near-by school as well as joggers and walkers who frequent the area.

City to Hold 3rd Annual Pet Fair

The city will sponsor the 3rd Annual Pet Fair on Sept. 27 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the 200 block of Viesca in the green area adjacent to the nature trails.

This year's event promises a great line-up of participants, including presentations from the San Antonio Zoo. A pet costume contest will be held in addition to hourly drawings for free prizes. Micro-chipping will also be offered for \$25 per animal by the Animal Defense League.

Information concerning the pet fair can be found on the City of Alamo Heights Web page at www.alamoheightstx.gov by clicking on the "City Events" tab. Information flyers are available at City Hall or at many local retailers.

The Spay-Neuter-Inject-Protect of San Antonio Program will precede the Pet Fair with a 5K run and 2 mile walk at the Alamo Heights Swimming Pool. The walk/run event will begin with registration at 6 a.m., with the 5K run starting at 7:30 a.m. and the 2 mile run/walk with your dog beginning at 8 a.m. For more information about the SNIP-SA 5K run and 2 mile walk/run, please visit their Web page at www.snipsa.org.

For more information about the 3rd Annual Pet Fair, please call Community Resource Officer J.W. Petrash at 210-832-2201.

Fire Prevention - A Top Priority

During Fire Prevention Month in October, the Alamo Heights Fire Department plans a full schedule of fire prevention appearances to support the "Prevent Home Fires" theme. Department personnel recommend extra caution to prevent the leading causes of home fires- cooking, heating, electrical and smoking.

Firefighters will visit local schools and day care centers to present activities, such as a pirate show, interactive puppet show, fire truck demonstrations and 911 phone simulators. The pirate show demonstrates life and fire safety, and the puppet show characters teach children not to play with matches and how to stop, drop and roll. Firefighters will demonstrate the equipment carried on the truck. The 911 phone simulators teach children how to call 911 and what to say in the event of an emergency. Sparky, the fire dog, will make special appearances throughout the events.

For more information or to schedule a fire prevention demonstration, call Division Chief Kevin Culak at 210-832-2208 or email kculak@alamoheightstx.gov